Rank of Indian universities

2189. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in a list of world's top universities published in the print media recently a solitary Indian University 'JNU' appeared at 192nd place;

(b) if so, whether criteria for top ranking places greater emphasis on research;

(c) if so, the reason for which we cannot upgrade our few selected universities upto 10 to 15 places having significant input of quality research; and

(d) whether Government would earmark extra funds initially and gradually ensure their autonomy to raise their own money in the long run?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is not aware of the criteria adopted by the Organization which conducts the survey.

(c) and (d) Subject to the finalization of the Eleventh Plan and availability of resources basic science research in the university system is proposed to be strengthened during the Plan period, as per the recommendations of the Task Force appointed for this purpose.

Shortcomings of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Delhi

†2190. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has pointed the various shortcomings regarding the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in schools in Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove these shortcomings;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to malnutrition, the children in the backward and poverty stricken areas like Vidarbha suffer from diseases of eyes, teeth and breathing; and

(d) if so, the efforts made for distribution of nutrients, as Vitamin, mineral salts, etc. in the Mid-Day Meal scheme so that the children could not become victims to the diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that a plan of action has been prepared for removing the shortcomings pointed out by C&AG, which includes –

- Ensuring 100% utilisation of funds allocated for the scheme.
- Ensuring supply of food grains of Fair Average Quality.
- Supply of meals of prescribed calorie and protein content.
- Inspection of kitchens of service providers to check their adherence to hygiene and health standard.
- Use of double fortified salt in preparation of cooked mid-day meal.
- Revision of menu with a view to ensuring that sufficient leafy vegetables are added in preparing food items.
- Ensuring that Principals/Head of Schools verify that the food supplied by the service providers is as per the prescribed standards in terms of its quality and quantity and is served in sealed containers.
- Convening periodic meetings of the State Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee with a view to ensuring that the programme is implemented meticulously and desired results are attained in a time bound manner.

(c) and (d) The primary objective of the Mid Day Meal programme is to provide supplementary nutrition. Under this scheme, cooked mid-day meal of a nutritional value of 450 calories and 12 grams of protein is provided. Micronutrient deficiency is widespread among disadvantaged population. The guidelines of the scheme recommend that the mid-day meal should be complemented with appropriate interventions relating to micronutrient supplementation and de-worming through administration of (a) six monthly dose for de-worming and Vitamin-A supplementation, (b) weekly Iron and Folic-Acid supplement, Zinc and (c) other appropriate supplementation depending on common deficiencies found in the local area.

Punishable offence for harassment of school children

†2191. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the direction of Commission for Protection of Child Rights according to which the harassment of school children by their teachers in any form would be a punishable offence;

(b) whether Government have agreed to these directions; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to implement these directions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Policy on Education, 1986, as modified in 1992, *inter alia* provides that "corporal punishment will be firmly excluded from the

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